

Clarke college COURIER

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Jeff Corwin promotes animal preservation

heidi rhinehart
campus life editor

campus life



Meet Mr. Clarke

arts etc.



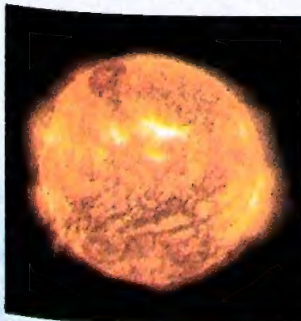
"Agnes of God" comes to Clarke.

sports



Callie Cram does it all

weather



Sunny
High 60°
Low 46°

Animal Planet star Jeff Corwin, using humor and rescued animals, reached out to a Kehl Center audience of families and students on Oct. 5 to persuade them to do their part in saving endangered animals. Corwin has been dedicated to the conservation of endangered animals around the world since he was a teenager. He is the host of "The Jeff Corwin Experience" on Animal Planet and has been featured in many other television shows about animal conservation. During his presentation, Corwin brought out different kinds of snakes, lizards and amphibians and used audience interaction to, as he said, "take the audience from the couches and bring the animals to you." He displayed a sense of humor that appealed to all ages.

He brought volunteers up from the audience to participate in the show. The volunteers were able to hold and see the animals up close when Corwin explained the biology of the animals. He completely engaged the audience with his family-friendly stories about the animals. Among the audience volunteers were two Clarke students, Dan Tringale and Carley Freund. "I really didn't think that Jeff would pick me," said Dan, a freshman business major. "It was a cool experience holding the water monitor, because I have never held a lizard that large before. I have watched Jeff many times on TV before so it was really cool actually meeting him."



photo by matt adams

Jeff Corwin shushes the audience as his assistant sneaks up with a Burmese python to drape over the shoulders of Clarke student Carley Freund during his presentation at Clarke Sunday.

"I was like 'what did I get myself into?'"

Carley, a sophomore elementary education major, said, "I didn't know what to expect when I got on stage. All I knew was that whatever animal it was would probably be big and scary because Jeff kept asking if I was brave. I couldn't see him bring it out, so when I heard the audience's reaction I was like 'What did I get myself into?' It turned out to be really neat, though."

Corwin also easily shifted into more serious top-

ics like the conservation of these animals. Many of the animals he brought out were very rare such as the alligator snapping turtle. Corwin stressed the importance of preserving the toads, turtles, lizards and snakes that he brought out because many are quickly going extinct. Corwin also shared with the audience how his love for animals began. He described being 6 years old at a cousin's house and encountering a garter snake. It was one of his first interactions with an animal. He said he instantly

reached for it and became a naturalist that day. He continued the story by telling the audience how he became a conversationalist. He saw a relative kill that same snake two years later, and it made him realize how important it is to save these animals.

In his 14 years of experience, Corwin has seen complete species of animals die off. He recalled one experience where he was invited to see a rare breed of song bird. He didn't realize what was so significant about this bird until he asked the conservationist at the facility. The conservationist told Corwin that this bird was the last of his species. He went on to tell Corwin that this bird "called the sweetest song every day for a mate-a call that will never be answered." The bird went on to die a few days later.

Corwin urged us all to do our part to save the planet. "We are all accountable. We feel like we don't matter but we all do," he said. He said we need to look in our own communities and do what we can within them. He suggested saving everything we throw away in a day and trying to cut that amount down. "We must protect this earth for the next generation," he concluded.

Giving Clarke a new image

heidi rhinehart
campus life editor

Over a year ago, Clarke's marketing and communications teams decided that the "brand" of Clarke College needed to undergo a change. With the support of the president's cabinet and working closely with the admissions team, Clarke has begun its new campaign called "By Clarke" and it's only the beginning of this new message for Clarke.

Branding is different than just a tagline or an image. It's the overriding overall message of the college. It's a process beginning with defining what the brand promise is and leads to targeting the specific attributes of the brand to defining how to articulate each attribute to the final step of bringing the brand process to life.

Clarke began the process with presentations by various branding firms in August 2007. Clarke decided upon Stamats, a Cedar Rapids publications firm and began surveying students, faculty, staff and alumni to understand what Clarke is to them.

"Stamats was impressed that the survey results at Clarke were very consistent," said Jamie Specht, director of marketing at Clarke. "Many colleges find differing perspectives in how students, faculty and staff perceive the college. That wasn't the case at Clarke."

Clarke also researched other colleges to see what their

brands were. They looked at colleges they considered peers and competitors and colleges they aspired to be like to compare what their brands are to what Clarke's brand is.

After all this research was conducted, Clarke was presented with two concepts by Stamats and decided upon the "By Clarke," campaign.

"Before deciding on the concept, we tested it out in focus groups of students, staff and faculty," said Specht. "It wasn't just the marketing office's decision. Everyone from the president to the students was involved in the process."

The strategy of "By Clarke" is to emphasize that Clarke has all the attributes a person can find on other campuses such as many different majors and sports, but we do things differently. It embodies the sense of pride at Clarke by using personal stories to communicate the strengths and attributes of the college.

To help define these attributes, Clarke used a tool taught to them by Stamats called a message matrix. The message matrix helps people understand what the college wants to share about Clarke as a brand.

Continued Page 8

New vegan cuisine on campus

kim brooks
editor

It's 6 p.m. Time for dinner. You grab a group of your friends and head down to the cafeteria to eat. You scan your card and make your way toward the food line. Many of the items you know and recognize as you try to make a fast decision. But then you see an unfamiliar food. It's vegan food! The idea started when a couple of students came to Matthew Ricketts, director of dining services at Clarke, and asked if it was possible to get vegan items on the cafeteria menu. Ricketts explained that since these students live on campus and have meal plans, he felt an obligation to take care of them.

Continued on Page 8

Oct. 9, 2008

Clarke students voice political opinions

lacey reynolds
opinion editor

Vote for Obama

Which issues do you think are most important for our generation of voters? Why do you think Obama's stance on these issues is superior to McCain's stance on them?

The major issue that we're going to have to live with as students, but mostly as American citizens are the questions: are we going to be able to take care of ourselves if we get sick or injured? And will our health care debts force us into living at a lower quality of life? The bottom line is we shouldn't have to worry about these questions; for too many years now the American government has allowed profit making into the responsibility of providing health care to its citizens.

Barack Obama's health care plan far exceeds that of John McCain's by lowering the cost and forcing insurance companies to fulfill their requirement to those who are in need. His plan also requires minors to be insured, thus giving every American child the right to live a life of longevity. Many opponents say Sen. Obama's plan is the same as moving towards a socialized system, which is false. The truth is that it places certain restrictions and requirements on insurance companies, which will help eliminate the huge profit margins seen by the insurance companies, and refocus their goal towards providing responsible health care. McCain's plan gives a tax break to American citizens in order to help them purchase health care. However, his plan to drive the cost down has been breeding competition which so far has been ineffective in the history of the American health care system. By not having new restrictions on the insurance companies it ensures that big businesses will profit while the public suffers. McCain does acknowledge that everyone that wishes to purchase health care should have the ability to do so, but offers no concrete plan on how we can reach this goal. Both candidates hopefully will carry out their plans if elected to office, but America as a whole will benefit much more under the leadership of Barack Obama.



Thomas Ammon, Junior
History/Philosophy

Letter to the Editor Amethyst Initiative raises wrong questions

TJ Kirsch
junior history/philosophy major

In the most recent issue of the Courier we learned that Clarke President Joanne Burrows will not be signing the Amethyst Initiative any time soon. While I disagree with her abstention, my objective here is only to emphasize the disappointing turn this debate has taken.

The Amethyst Initiative does not specifically state that the goal is to lower the drinking age, but to initiate debate regarding the prohibition for those under 21, and it has succeeded in that goal, but this debate is missing the larger point. Supporters of the initiative and the initiative itself argue that abstinence approaches to alcohol are obviously not working, that the law is forcing binge drinking off campus, and that since people between the ages of 18 and 21 are considered responsible enough to be drafted and trained to kill, to vote and (supposedly) change the direction of the country, and to sign contracts, they ought to be considered responsible enough to have a beer, or a few.

The antagonists here are the groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) who come storming in with their appeals to emotion and almost convincing statistics. The MADD web site shows a neat graph illustrating declining alcohol-related traffic fatalities. Just a few paragraphs below the web site claims "An estimated 25,000 lives have been saved by the 21 Minimum Legal Drinking Age..."

Both sides of this debate are focusing on the consequences of changing or maintaining the law, which completely neglects the real problem of the abrogation of the rights of adults under 21. How dare anyone be presumptuous enough to control what we imbibe, and then tell us it is for our own good? The politicians, and those who support them, are no different from us in any significant way and should be ashamed for believing they have the right to control us on such a personal level via the force of law.

clarke courier

Young voters' voices grow stronger

ali herbst
staff writer

With the presidential candidates focusing on addressing problems that do not necessarily pertain to us college students yet, young voters want to know how great our ability is to influence the results of the election. As it turns out in polls being conducted across the states, our generation of 18 to 29-year-old voters could possibly be the deciding factor as to who will be elected our next president. The 18 to 29 age group makes up nearly one fourth of eligible American voters, showing that clearly our votes do have a great potential to sway the election. However, our age group is the most underrepresented in any given election. The youth turnout rate for the presidential election was 36 percent in 2000, which was the highest rate in over 10 years. Better news is that in the 2004 election, our age group turnout rate increased by 11 percent, which was nearly 47 percent of eligible voters our age represented.

Even as the age group with the lowest rate of votes cast in 2004, we were the group who experienced the largest increase since the 2000 elections. The numbers are showing that more of us are going to the polls to have our say. There has been outreach to the 18-29 age group over the years, and this is likely the reason we are becoming more involved in the political world. The rate at which more technology is being incorporated into campaigning may also be affecting the youth's awareness and participation. Campaign sites such as Rock the Vote, Smackdown Your Vote, and many more have been made specifically targeting people our age.

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Vote for McCain

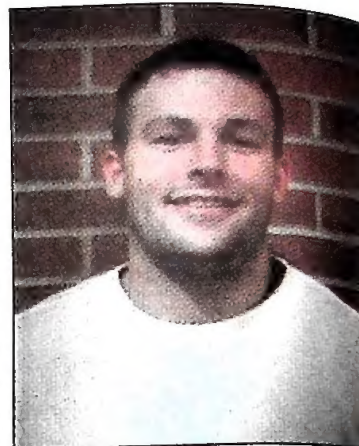
Which issues do you think are most important for our generation of voters? Why do you think McCain's stance on these issues is superior to Obama's stance on them?

I think that our safety as a nation is important because terrorism is still a major threat. John McCain has a wealth of experience when it comes to this issue. He served on the Armed Service Committee and ran the largest squadron in the U.S. Navy. John McCain always bases his foreign policy votes on his vast knowledge of how best to keep America safe. While Sen. McCain puts his country's interests before his own political interests or the interests of his party, Sen. Obama has done the exact opposite in his brief Senate career, voting solely based on what he thinks best helps himself and his party win the next election.

McCain is also the pro-life candidate. I graduated from a Catholic high school and received very conservative training in the Catholic faith. Now as a senior at Clarke and voting for the first time in a presidential election I know the choice is a simple one.

I would invite my fellow students and faculty to go to the Democratic Party Platform 2008 web site and read the party's position on LIFE. It states: "The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe vs. Wade and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and we oppose any and all efforts to undermine that right."

As a practicing Catholic who fears God's judgment, I would never want to have my name associated with an organization or candidate that advocates such a position, let alone endorse that position or candidate with my vote.



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Streamlines...
An undergraduate conference
celebrating language, literature and writing

A collaborative effort of Clarke, Loras
and the University of Dubuque

BE THERE

Sat. Nov. 8 at Clarke

Oct. 9, 2008
Clarke student
to become college
editor
Winters, senior at
Clarke, might still be
involved in a soft drink company
as a manager. He had no
idea of going to college to
get a degree because, as he says,
he was making a "pretty good
deal" working for Pepsi.
His dad's plans changed in
November 2005 when he was
involved in a car accident. He
suffered traumatic brain injuries
and shattered his right leg. He was
in a coma for a month and spent
seven months in the hospital.
"I don't remember
before or for three months
after the accident," he said. "I
said I would be out of college
that I wouldn't fully recover."
I don't re-
before o-
after
Although Andy appeared
recovered fully from his
his speaking skills are n-
were before the accident.
"I still have trouble
people if I don't know
Andy said. "I'm okay i-
what I want to say, but
Student shares a p-
Kim Brooks
editor
Clarke sophomore Matt
Shannon has a personal
connection to drunk driv-
ing. Before Matt was born, his
grandfather, while standing on
the side of a road, was killed by a
drunk driver. He and a co-worker
went out to a call to fix a power
line, when a car came barreling by.
Initially the driver was a brother
of the co-worker.
The drinking and driving statistics
in this country are unbelievable.
The number of people who get
behind the wheel while intoxicated
and the number of deaths each
year would make you go insane.
Thirty percent of our population
is affected by drunk drivers every
year. That's why Matt decided to
do something about it.
"I wanted to take action
my voice heard," said Matt.
He brought up a hom-
about a group of young
who were out for their
18-year-old drunk driv-
ing girls' car and it immedi-
ately caught fire. Jacqui Sal-
sitting in the front seat
pinned under due to
of the accident. Other
to get out, but Saburri
third degree burns to
cent of her body.
First
kicks
Senior Andy Bishop showed
off his gagging talent while host
and Schreider, director of host
entertainment, looked on.
Junior Pete Dudek showed
his martial arts skills in t-

Oct. 9, 2008

Clarke student fought for his life to become college grad

courtney townsend
editor

Andy Winders, senior accounting major at Clarke, might still be working for a soft drink company if he hadn't been involved in a horrible accident.

After graduating from Galena High School in 2002, Andy took some time off from school and worked for Pepsi as a merchandiser. He had no intention of going to college to get a degree because, as he says, he was making a "pretty good bank" working for Pepsi.

But Andy's plans changed in November 2003 when he was involved in a car accident. He suffered traumatic brain injuries and shattered his right leg. He was in a coma for a month and spent

seven months in the hospital.

"I don't remember one week before or for three months after the accident," he said. "The doctors said I would be out of commission: that I wouldn't fully recover."

I stutter."

Despite the tragedy of his accident, Andy did gain something from the experience: a college education. Before the accident, he had no plans to leave his job at

"I don't remember one week before or for three months after the accident."

Although Andy appears to have recovered fully from his accident, his speaking skills are not as they were before the accident.

"I still have trouble talking to people if I don't know them," Andy said. "I'm okay if I know what I want to say, but if I don't,

Pepsi, but the accident made him look at what he wanted to do with his life.

So Andy enrolled at NICC in Peosta and graduated with an Associate's degree in accounting. He even gave a speech at the graduation ceremony.

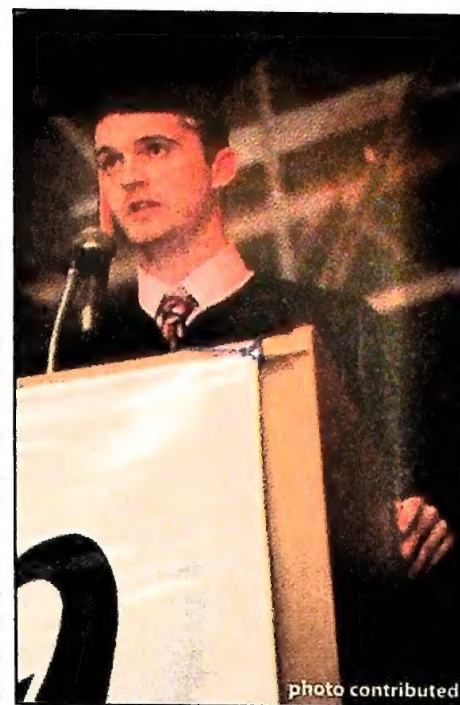


photo contributed

Clarke senior Andy Winders addresses his classmates at his graduation from NICC.

Student shares a personal drunk driving story

kim brooks
editor

Clarke sophomore Matt Shannon has a personal connection to drunk driving. Before Matt was born, his grandfather, while standing on the side of a road, was killed by a drunk driver. He and a co-worker were out on a call to fix a power line, when a car came barreling by. Ironically, the driver was a brother of the co-worker.

The drinking and driving statistics in this country are unbelievable. The number of people who get behind the wheel while intoxicated and the number of deaths each year would make you go insane. Thirty percent of our population is affected by drunk drivers every year. That's why Matt decided to do something about it.

Matt gave a presentation on Sept. 30, in the Jansen Music Hall, educating the audience about drunken driving deaths: the causes, Iowa laws on drinking and facts about drinking and driving laws in other countries.

"I wanted to take action and make my voice heard," said Matt.

He brought up a horrifying story about a group of young women who were out for the night. An 18-year-old drunk driver hit the girls' car and it immediately burst into flames. Jacqui Saburrido was sitting in the front seat and was pinned under due to the impact of the accident. Others were able to get out, but Saburrido suffered third degree burns to over 70 percent of her body.

Matt showed a photo of Saburrido before the accident and then a graphic shot of her after. Saburrido also shared her story on "Oprah."

Statistics that were brought up included the Iowa Code 9-30-5, which explains the laws on operating a vehicle while intoxicated. In reference to this code, the BAC (blood alcohol content) law in Iowa is .08. This means the amount of alcohol in the driver's bloodstream can't exceed .08, which is approximately five 12-ounce beers for the average person.

Other legal matters brought up included the first, second and third offense laws. If you get caught drinking and driving the first time, you lose your license for 180 days. Second offense makes it one year

without a license, and third offense makes it two years. Each time, you receive mandatory jail time as well.

Matt chose to do this presentation during Clarke's Alcohol Awareness Week as a way to prevent further drunk-driving tragedies.

"My goal is to convince one person to think that drunk driving is bad, and that person can save a life and even make a difference," he said.



photo by kim brooks

Matt Shannon talked to a crowd of Clarke students during Alcohol Awareness week, sharing stories of people affected by drunk drivers.

First Mr. Clarke pageant kicks off Homecoming week



photo by kim brooks

Sophomore Andy Bishop showed off his juggling talent while host Andy Schroeder, director of admissions, looked on.

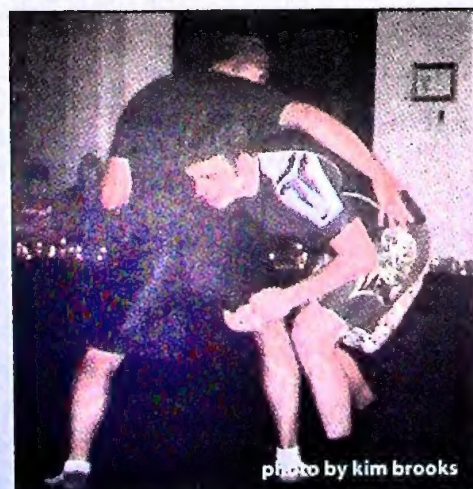


photo by kim brooks

Junior Pete Dudek showed off his mixed martial arts skills in the talent competition.



photo by kim brooks

Sophomore Matt Carlson performed "I'm a Little Teapot" to display his talent.



Finally... sophomore Justin Haas was crowned the winner of the Mr. Clarke Pageant on Sept. 28.

Oct. 9, 2008

Summer Flood: A student's story of losing her home

lacey reynolds
opinion editor

I clutched my boyfriend's arm for I was sure the rope running from our inner tube to the boat was going to snap, sending me flailing. Just as my boyfriend was about to tell his dad to make the boat go faster, I heard his mom yelling for us to come in to shore, which I was incredibly thankful to hear. Later, I would come to wish that she had never called us in at all for the news she gave me was far worse than any terrifying tubing experience.

Brian's mom didn't say much once I managed to get my soaking body on the dock. "Your sister just called and said you need to call her back right away," she said. I immediately ran barefoot to the cabin we were staying in.

My boyfriend's family and I were on vacation five hours north of our hometown of Potosi, Wis. I could not imagine what could have gone wrong at home, but I hoped it was not anything too catastrophic because I had no way of getting back home until Sunday and this was only Thursday afternoon.

I dialed my sister's number, pacing outside the cabin. I heard her voice on the other end, trying to sound cheerful as she said, "Hello?"

"Lynne, what's wrong?" Realizing it was me, she stopped trying to hide the tears in her voice and asked me if I was sitting down. Anxious to hear the news, I lied and said yes, I was sitting down.

"Lacey, there's been a lot of rain here all week," she said. "There's been a lot of flooding in town. We didn't want to ruin your vacation so we didn't call you. But then, this afternoon..." She paused to muffle a whimper, "...Mom was home and the water came up to the third floor; they rescued her and the whole house is ruined, the yard is full of mud and trees and the walls caved in; Mom can't stop crying and Dad won't stop swearing and..." She took a breath and burst into tears as she exhaled.

I fell to the ground sobbing. I heard Lynne pulling herself together to tell me more details. She explained that Mom had been home alone when the rain came. She made a round of the house, looking out each window to check the creek's water level. When she reached the kitchen, the water was rushing through the basement door. "The fridge was floating and the water kept coming," Mom later told me, "so I ran upstairs. I didn't

panic until I realized the phones were off the hook. Then I worried. You know I can't swim."

My mom shouted out the upstairs window to every passing car. It was raining in such heavy sheets that no one could hear or even see her. Finally, a man pulled over to look at the rising river. Mom saw her chance. "I just yelled and yelled over the rushing of the water," she said, "It was so loud I could barely hear myself." But somehow the man heard her and called 911. "Then we looked at each other," Mom said through tears. "We just stared. I could tell he felt helpless because he couldn't reach me. There was just too much water. So we just waited." The fire department came, but by then, the water had gone down to the top of the basement.

I spent the rest of my vacation in bed, waiting for Sunday morning when we could leave for Potosi. I met my mom and sister at my uncle's storage shed. My aunts and uncles were wiping mud off of furniture, wrapping porcelain figurines in newspaper, taping up boxes filled with knickknacks. They looked up when I walked through the door, but then quickly



Clarke sophomore Lacey Reynolds' home after June 13 flooding.

went back to work. No one talked. No one made eye contact. I just looked around and said, "I want to see the house."

My brothers came home from Milwaukee to see the house. As our car approached the house, I could see rows of vehicles along both sides of the highway. I got out of the car and took it all in. The whole town was swarming my house like a colony of ants gathering food. But instead of gathering food, they were gathering my memories to be thrown away. Our yard was coated with two feet of

mud. In the driveway stood muddy appliances. Our small shed was shredded and thrown completely across the yard.

As I looked around, I saw men looking down into our basement. One of them slowly turned around and looked directly at me. Dad, I walked down the driveway, crying harder with each step. I grabbed him in a hug. He turned me around to look at the house and through his tears said, "It's gone. The whole thing... gone."

Continued on page 5

Meet New Student
Life Directoremily ludovissy
staff writer

He has been to Israel and the Dominican Republic and now he is at Clarke College. Steve Dyer started in mid-June as the new director of student activities and has been adapting well. Dyer is originally from New Jersey; he received his B.A. from Calvin College and his M.A. in education leadership from Western Michigan University in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"Steve brings a great upbeat attitude to Clarke's campus while organizing many on-campus events," said Jessica Lange, junior, nursing major. "Steve always does everything with a smile."

Dyer has the ability to get along with many types of people and will go to great lengths to make them feel comfortable. He also advises CSA and CREATE.

His favorite place on campus is the courtyard by his office. He also loves to spend time with his wife Nicole and two children Samuel, 3, and Ella, 1.

Dyer has great hopes for Clarke's student activities and for Clarke as a whole. He is bringing brand new and different activities that include new and exciting lectures like "Where does your money go on the weekend?" on Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and the brand new Concert Series "Lion's Den Wednesday" with "The Acoustic Sideshow" starting on Oct. 15 in the Lion's Den.

"The biggest goal is to make Clarke a place where people want to be," said Dyer. "Clarke is a unique place; it has a strong tradition but is not afraid to move forward."



Freshmen Ben Westholder, Kylee Miller, Amber Engelhardt, Angela Healey and Steve Dyer on Welcome Weekend.

BVMs celebrate 175 years

justin curry
back page editor

Five Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) founded Clarke College 165 years ago. Their names are still familiar to Clarke students today: Margaret Mann, Eliza Kelly, Catherine Byrne, Rose O'Toole, and Mary Frances Clarke, who the college is named after.

On June 20-22 this past summer the BVMs celebrated their 175th anniversary at the Grand River Center in downtown Dubuque. The theme of the anniversary was honoring the past, celebrating the present, and embracing the future.

Sara McAlpin, archivist of Clarke and BVM for 52 years said, "The reunion included 500 BVMs, former BVMs and those who are associated with the BVMs but did not take vows." They came from many places from New York to California. Even BVMs from Ghana and Guatemala made appearances. The original BVMs came from Ireland and became a religious community ten years before Clarke was opened in 1843.

The anniversary was comprised of social gatherings, lectures, discussions and a banquet. The banquet was the main event for the BVMs. At the banquet original compositions by Clarke music professors, Amy Dunker and David



BVMs (left to right) Ellen Morseth, Mary Breslin, Joan Lingen provost and vice president of academic affairs at Clarke, and friends gather at the BVM reunion

Resnick were played. "It was a moving weekend that was spiritually uplifting, and they did great job playing the music," said David Resnick.

LaDonna Manternach, BVM and chair of the music department, sang a composition created by Amy Dunker.

Drew Manternach, nephew of LaDonna Manternach, sophomore music major said, "I am glad to have a BVM in my family, it makes me feel more connected with Clarke traditions."

"In the 1940s to 1950s the faculty and staff at Clarke were made up of almost all BVMs, today there

are only 16 working at Clarke," said McAlpin.

The BVMs play a major role in our past and present. Currently they hold jobs from Vice President of Academic Affairs at Clarke to chairs and professors of departments to working in our archives and post office. Norm Freund, chair of the philosophy department who teaches a class solely about the history of the BVMs said, "We are as the Clarke community grows directly from the BVMs values, which are freedom, education, justice, and charity."

Flood, continued from Page 4

The rest of the family joined us to walk through the house one last time. The smell of damp must and mold filled the house. Our dining room table was tipped over, our couch layered with mud. The bathroom wall was caved in. The floor was no longer visible through the muck.

This place was not my home anymore. It was a grimy, smelly pit of slop. It made me mad. Dad was clearly mad too. He gave us the tour with sarcasm in his voice. "Here's where the wall caved in," he said as he kicked the bulging wall of our living room. "Here's where your mom saw the fridge floating." Those were his memories of the house now. Memories of what the water did to it, instead of the lives we led in it.

We continued the tour outside, but Lynne and I realized Mom was not with us. We found her in the kitchen, the kitchen she had just remodeled on her own a few weeks before. She scraped away the mud with her feet, trying desperately to find the tiles

man, is brought in situation and determined Agnes is a stand trial. Mother Miriam, senior at Agnes' c

I'm here, young Agnes is a senior drama major Allison Padley, is also present and wishes to protect her charge's spiritual health as much as Dr. Livingston wants to help with her mental health. The cast has been working hard to bring "Agnes of God" to life since "It's tough with just holding the show," "But it's working out." The minimal set is all the cast has had. "There are no costumes for us play off of," only furniture on a markable chair an e The show also re

The porch on Lacey Reynolds' home on the wall shows how

Oct. 9, 2008

'Agnes of God' examines faith

ben jacobson
staff writer

I'm not a mistake. I'm here, aren't I? How can I be a mistake if I'm really here?" Agnes pleads at an emotional moment in Clarke's upcoming production of "Agnes of God." "God doesn't make mistakes."

Rediscovering one's faith is one of the central issues in Clarke's latest play, which will run from October 16 to 19.

"Agnes of God" is a show that director Carol Blitgen, BVM, professor of drama and speech, has wanted to do for a long time. "Right now we have the people who are capable of doing it," said Blitgen. Since the entire cast is only the three leads, all of the parts are very demanding and require a significant amount of dedication.

"Dr. Livingston is on stage the entire time," Blitgen said. "And Agnes had to have a beautiful singing voice because that's an important part of the story."

The play focuses on a novice nun with a troubled past named Agnes, portrayed by senior drama major Erin Kane. When a newborn child is found dead in a garbage can in her room, Agnes claims to have no memory of the baby's conception or birth. A court-appointed psychiatrist, Dr. Livingston, played by senior drama major Valerie Heitz-

man, is brought in to assess the situation and determine whether young Agnes is mentally fit to stand trial.

Mother Miriam, the Mother Superior at Agnes' convent, played by senior drama major Allison Padley, is also present and wishes to protect her charge's spiritual health as much as Dr. Livingston wants to help with her mental health.

The cast has been working hard to bring "Agnes of God" to life since early September. "It's tough with just three of us holding the show," said Heitzman. "But it's working out."

The minimal set is also an obstacle the cast has had to overcome. "There are no costumes or props for us play off of," said Padley. The only furniture on stage is an unremarkable chair and end table set.

The show also requires Kane to

sing frequently, setting an eerie tone at key emotional moments. Kane has been singing since she was little, but the music in "Agnes of God" proved to be challenging. "It's all traditional Catholic mu-



photo by ben jacobson
Valerie Heitzman and Erin Kane rehearse for "Agnes of God." The play will run from Oct. 16 through Oct. 19.

sic which sounds a bit more like chants," Kane said.

Despite the grim story, complicated story, "Agnes of God" stands as a dramatization of a crisis of faith that some must endure.

The play will be presented at Terence Donaghoe Hall at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 16-18 and on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. and is free to students, faculty and staff.

Art department plans trip to Italy

kristina nesteby
staff writer

Clarke Art history professor Bryan Zygmunt hopes to watch his students' faces light up this winter when they see works of art such as Michaelangelo's David in the Galleria dell'Accademia, the Pantheon in Rome, and work by Pinturicchio, Caravaggio and Bernini inside Raphael's Santa Maria del Popolo.

Zygmunt has gathered 17 Clarke students to travel to Italy during winter break. The group will leave on Dec. 27 and return Jan. 6.

"Why Italy?" It is the home of the Renaissance. The multitude of museums contain creations that are awe-inspiring.

"Greece has some great artifacts," Zygmunt said. "England is a different culture, but they're just like us with accents. Rome has been an artistic center for thousands of years."

Although students can receive art history credit by touring Italy this winter, Zygmunt anticipates that students gain more out of the trip than credit toward graduation.

"My hope is that the trip is not just an academic experience," he said. "I want to take people who haven't had the chance to experience a completely different part of the world."

Clarke art professor Doug Schlesier said, "Every student should travel abroad to see more of the world. They should struggle to speak a different language whether they know it or not."

Learning about different cultures and viewing slides of art are different than discovering a country by oneself.

"I've done the Italy slide show three times," Zygmunt said. "I can tell you about an object or building, but it's not something I can explain like experiencing it can."

This isn't the first trip the art department has taken. Schlesier began taking students on trips during his first year at Clarke. "The first group I took was in 1970; we went to South America for a month and a half," Schlesier said.

The last group to travel was in 2001. "We spent time in Mexico City, the city of Oaxaca and Yucatán," he said. "Then we stayed at Mérida and also at the ruins in Uxmal."

Don't worry if you couldn't make it this time around. Italy will be one of many trips taken by the art department. Zygmunt hopes to take a trip every three years. "That way each class can go at least once. I would love to go to Paris and do a gothic tour of the countryside."

Junior graphic design student Joe Turek is looking forward to the Italian trip. "Italy's the center of world culture. I cannot ignore the opportunity to visit," he said.

Zygmunt said, "Italy, for me, is an amazing place. There has been a long tradition of artists who travel to Italy starting in the 16th century."

Five centuries later, Clarke students are signed up and ready to partake in this tradition.

Flood, continued from Page 4

The rest of the family joined us to walk through the house one last time. The smell of damp must and mold filled the house. Our dining room table was tipped over, our couch layered with mud. The bathroom wall was caved in. The floor was no longer visible through the muck.

This place was not my home anymore. It was a gross, smelly pit of slop. It made me mad. Dad was clearly mad too. He gave us the tour with sarcasm in his voice. "Here's where the wall caved in," he said as he kicked the bulging wall of our living room. "Here's where your mom saw the fridge floating." Those were his memories of the house now. Memories of what the water did to it, instead of the lives we led in it.

We continued the tour outside, but Lynne and I realized Mom was not with us. We found her in the kitchen, the kitchen she had just remodeled on her own a few weeks before. She scraped away the mud with her feet, trying desperately to find the tiles

she had spent hours picking out at the store, the whole time crying, "My floor! My kitchen!" She shook with sobs, but Lynne and I could only stare at each other and cry. Not knowing what to do, Lynne found Dad. Dad helplessly looked at Mom and weakly said, "It's okay."

The thing is, it is not okay. It will take a long time before we are "okay" again. My parents found a new house and the three of us moved in last weekend. The house is in town and we love the country. It does not smell like us. The closets are small. The walls have no color. The wallpaper is gaudy. The yard is too big. The landscaping is dull. It is not my home. But my parents are with me. And my siblings, boyfriend and friends are helping me adjust. We are still here for each other, and that truly is what matters most. The new house may not be perfect and I may complain about it, but deep down, I know that my family and I will soon make this new house feel like our old home.



photo by lacey reynolds
The porch on Lacey Reynolds' family home is a mess after severe flooding. The line on the wall shows how high the water reached on the first floor of the house.

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Oct. 9, 2008

"Boomsday" an explosive satireben jacobson
staff writer

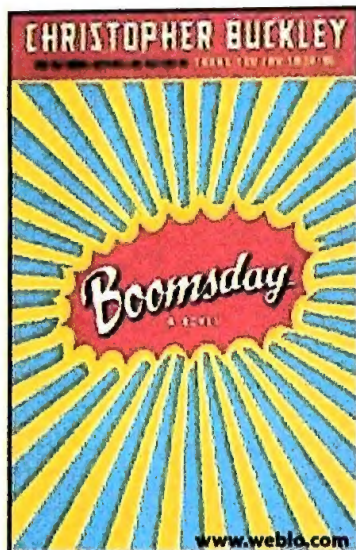
Boomsday" by Christopher Buckley is your typical love story. Girl meets boy. Boy takes girl out to dinner. Boy and girl get blown up by a land mine while fleeing from insurgents in the Middle East. Permanently disabled boy becomes a senator with presidential ambitions while permanently jaded girl becomes a revolutionary.

So it's not a typical love story. It's not even really a love story at all. There's definitely some romance going on, but the primary focus of the novel is the problems with Social Security and how it is essentially stealing from us young folks.

Cassandra Devine is a D.C. spin doctor by trade and a controversial blogger by nature. Fed up with the Baby Boomer crowd bleeding Social Security dry, Devine encourages vandalism against "Boomer" strongholds such as country clubs. While this gains her some notoriety, she really makes waves when she suggests that tax breaks be given to all who commit suicide before a certain age.

Devine, a former corporal who served in Bosnia, was also inextricably linked to Senator Randolph Jepperson after they were both injured by a land mine while fleeing hostile forces. Jepperson lost his leg in the accident, which made

him a heroic figure and easy choice for public office. When he decides to run for president, Jepperson realizes he can capitalize on his history with Devine and her infamy. The campaign draws fire from a possibly homicidal minister, the presidential incumbent, and a large corporation, all of whom dislike both Devine and Jepperson.



It's difficult to read this book and not start to dislike old people, assuming of course that you are not old yourself. It brings to light, albeit in a comical sense, the many issues of our economy and how many of these problems could be avoided.

"Boomsday" makes a pretty valid argument against people expecting government aid when they don't necessarily need it.

Where the book really shines is its characterizations. Jepperson is a brilliant politician, but at the same time is very naïve and often stupid. Gideon Payne, the aforementioned minister, is portrayed as a dangerous, conniving individual but is also shown in a sympathetic light. His mother's death, for which he is not accused but is strongly suspected, turns into a nice subplot that further humanizes what is initially a cartoonish villain. Devine's daddy issues are key in her transition from military girl to social revolutionary.

I didn't much care for the romantic aspects of the novel. Devine and Jepperson are not likeable as a couple and their budding relationship is irrelevant to the plot. It's almost like it was tacked on to make it more likely to be optioned by a movie studio.

Buckley, the author of "Thank You for Smoking" and "Florence of Arabia" is at his best here. Political satire is his bread and butter and it also makes for pretty entertaining reading. I suggest you check it out.

Rock out at the Voices Warehouse Gallerypete lister
staff writer

Hey all you Guitar Hero players. If you're tired of competing against your roommates and think you are ready for a real challenge, then stop by the Voices Warehouse Gallery in Dubuque, Saturday, Oct. 11, for a Guitar Hero contest.

There will be mini competitions, food and beverages, and a competition for who come dressed as the best "rocker." There will be cash prizes based on the entry fees, ranging from \$100 for younger contestants to \$80 for older contestants. There is also a surprise grand prize from Best Buy for the overall winner.

The Telegraph Herald, The Gamer, and Best Buy are sponsoring this guitar hero challenge for people 17 and younger and 18 and older. The 18 and over challenge begins at 7 p.m. The younger people will begin at 11 a.m.

"We are doing this to attract young people because it's an audience that newspapers tend to have problems reaching," said The Telegraph Herald's multi-

media specialist Tony Frenzel, a 2005 Clarke graduate.

"We hope that the event will not only raise awareness of the TH itself but also the Web site and the many services it offers younger people. Also, depending on the success of this year's event, we're looking to possibly make this a yearly event."

The official name of the event is The ALTime Guitar Hero Challenge. The Voices Warehouse Gallery is at 1000 Jackson St.

**To see or not to see . . . Now on DVD**dave tucker
a & e editor

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" Season 3 - The gang is back as one of cable's funniest shows returns to DVD for the hilarious third season. The most self-serving and despicable, yet ultimately likeable cast since "Seinfeld" is up to its usual shenanigans which range from starting their own rock band to adopting a Dumpster baby. "Sex and the City" - Having



never seen an episode of the show (amazing, I know) I really had no desire to check out the movie. However, if you were a fan of the show, I'm sure no negative review on earth would stop you from checking out the film. So... I'm just going to stop right there.

"Leatherheads" - George Clooney and Rene Zellweger topline this vintage comedy about a financially fading football team and its hopes of bringing the sport past its college boundaries to establish a professional league. A standout performance from John Krasinski (Jim from "The Office") and Clooney's usual smooth-talking persona are worth a watch.

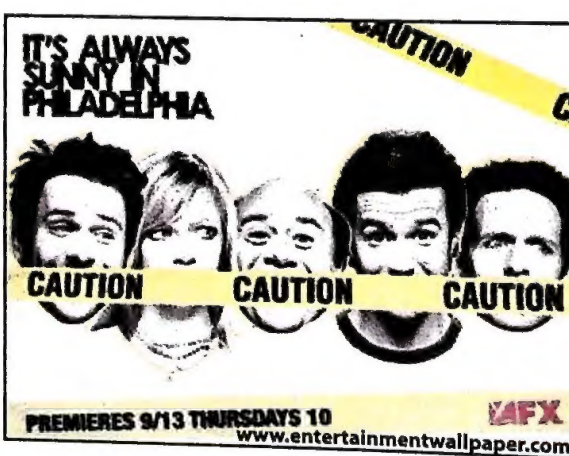
"Run Fat Boy Run" - Simon Pegg plays a likeable loser who regrets leaving his pregnant fiancé at the altar when she becomes engaged to Hank Azaria, a wealthy financier who spends spare time running marathons for charity. In an attempt to show her he

can change, Pegg also decides to race, and as the title suggests, he's not exactly in top physical shape. Pretty standard comedy, and while Pegg's performance is great, he can never top his roles in "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz."

"Bigger, Stronger, Faster" - Pretty much the antithesis to "Pumping Iron," the classic Arnold Schwarzenegger weight-lifting bio, this documentary explores steroid use in American culture. Funny, entertaining and thought-provoking. Sure it has an agenda, but it's still worth a watch, if for nothing more than the recovered after-school special footage of Ben Affleck 'roid-raging though his suburban home.

"The Happening" (Oct. 7) - M. Night Shyamalan's foray into R-rated picture territory pretty much landed him the most ridiculed movie of the year. I was so geared up to see this, but after reading an overwhelming number of negative reviews, I opted to skip it and wait for DVD. Apparently it's so laughably bad it's almost good. To be honest, that almost reignites my desire to see it.

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" (Oct. 14) - Harrison Ford postpones a trip to the nursing home for one more whip-cracking adventure. Joining him in the fourth install-



ment is Shia LaBeouf, (apparently just part of his quest to appear in every blockbuster film for the next five years) and with all the Nazi's gone, Indy opts to punch Russians in the face this time. Pretty much what we've come to expect from the franchise but with a little too much reliance on computer-generated effects rather than the terrific practical stunts that made the series so enjoyable in the first place.

"The Strangers" (Oct. 21) - Liv Tyler and Scott Speedman are terrorized by three masked psychopaths. The "inspired by true events" tagline refers to Charles Manson and the Sharon Tate murders. Yep. That about covers it.

"The Incredible Hulk" (Oct. 21) - Not quite "Iron Man"-good, but heads and tails above the Ang Lee-directed 2003 mess. Edward Norton does an excellent job as Bruce Banner, and strangely enough, its more engrossing watching him act than it is watching the computer-generated behemoth trash

the place. One of the reasons this succeeded where the previous film failed is the introduction of The Abomination, a villain the Hulk can actually go toe-to-toe with instead of just demolishing faceless military personnel. The best part, however, is much like "Iron Man," you can see the intricately laid groundwork being placed to unite all these Marvel heroes in the upcoming "Avengers" film.

Oct. 9, 2008

**Australian soccer to new life at**aaron rhomberg
sports editor

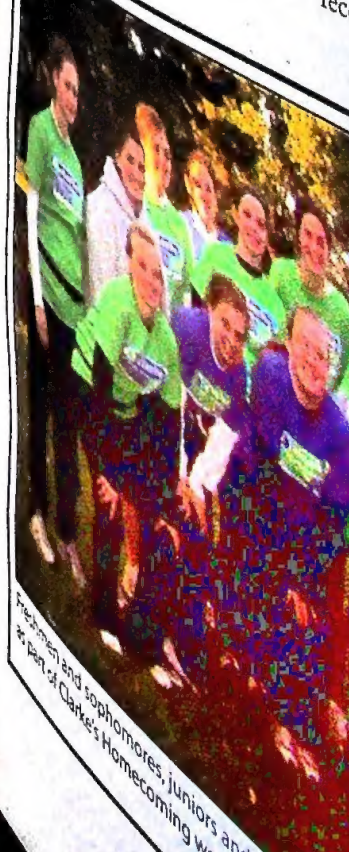
For students, leaving for college can be a difficult task. Not only are they leaving behind their family and friends, but they will be starting a new chapter in their lives. Then there are those who leave their home country and go to college here in the United States. and are not able to see their loved ones for most of the year.

Joshua Lister is from Perth, Australia, and is entering his first year at Clarke College. He is a freshman, and like most college students entering their first year, he is unsure what major to pursue.

Joshua is not as home sick as one would think; he has actually been out of his homeland since the age of 16 and this is nothing out of the ordinary for him.

He views his experiences at Clarke as positive. "Well the kids in the soccer team are phenomenal," he said. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys."

While he is enjoying his time in the United States, he is also looking forward to his senior year.



Oct. 9, 2008

SPORTS

Captain Callie: Energy to Spare

aaron rhomberg
sports editor



Callie Cram, Captain of Clarke's Women's soccer team.

For most people trying to balance both school and sports can be difficult. However, there are some who take on extra responsibilities, pressure, and stress. Clarke student Callie Cram is one of these people. She is a senior majoring in education, who is taking on many tasks and has developed leadership skills.

Callie is the captain of the Clarke women's soccer team and is an R.A. as well. "It's stressful to be both, but I work better with a lot of things to do," she said.

Callie feels that being in the R.A. position helps her inter-

act with other students who she would not have had contact with before.

Her soccer is affected by her R.A. responsibilities but she feels this fact helps improve on her leadership abilities by organizing her time efficiently.

Callie explains that the most challenging thing this season for her is the chemistry of the team.

"There is a new batch of girls and a new way of playing the game," she said. "When you play on a team sport, it is amazing how you work as one, like a machine."

She also believes that while it may be difficult in the beginning, great progress is made by both new and returning players helping the team succeed.

"It will be sad that this is going to be my last year playing for Clarke, but I look forward to what we will become in the future," she said.

As for her busy schedule, Callie feels that

it becomes difficult to separate being an R.A., playing soccer and her school duties. Her classes at times are affected by soccer primarily because there are many games this season.

"My education teachers are very understanding of my schedule and they support me and come to my games, she said.

"This helps the student-teacher relationship."

When it comes to room for improvement, Callie wants her team to be the best team and win at conference.

"I want to have great grades and to bring a smile to my parents' faces with my achievements," she said.

Another goal that she hopes to achieve is to bring the passion she has to the other players on the team.

"I just want to leave the team with great memories and lasting friendships with my teammates," she said.

Australian soccer player adjusts easily to new life at Clarke

aaron rhomberg
sports editor

For students, leaving for college can be a difficult task. Not only are they leaving behind their family and friends, but they will be starting a new chapter in their lives. Then there are those who leave their home country and go to college here in the United States and are not able to see their loved ones for most of the year.

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He views his experiences at Clarke as positive. "Well the lads in the soccer team are phenomenal," he said. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys."

While he is enjoying his time in the United

States, contact with his family is minimal.

"At the moment, I don't talk to my family as they are traveling in Europe or Britain. When they are at home I'm able to talk to them. I generally speak to them via email, as they are 14 hours ahead and it's difficult getting a time when we are on the MSN messenger," he said.

Joshua is planning to return to Australia in December, but other than that he plans to travel to Europe so it might be sometime before he goes back to his country.

When it comes time to prepare for his soccer games, his training is no different from other athletes. Getting good rest and training will have him both mentally and physically ready for the upcoming games.

One of his goals for this season is to have his medial ligament that he strained in the pre-season healed.

"Since then I've basically been working on my knee with the trainer," she said. "I've only recently been available to play. So I would say

my short-term goal is to get established in the squad and then go from there."

Joshua finds the balance between school and soccer to be an easy task. When he was in Australia he took most of his general classes while in high school, so he feels he is repeating much of what he learned in high school.

His transition to living in the United States is coming rather easy to him.

"I don't particularly find anything challenging; the whole experience has been rather enjoyable and easy to handle," he said.

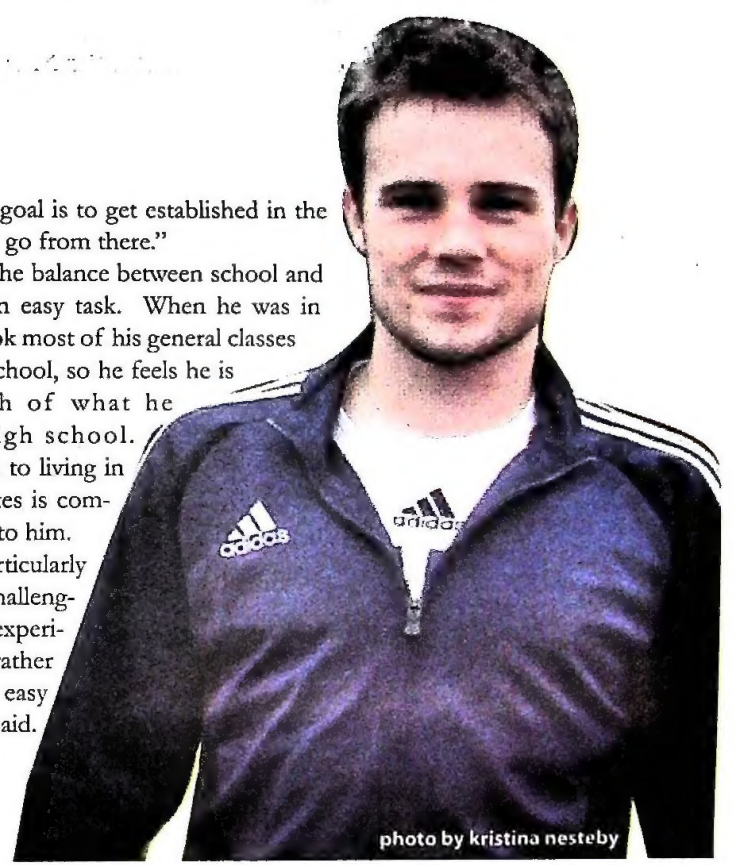


photo by kristina nesteby

Clarke Australian soccer player Joshua Lister.



photo by kim brooks

Freshmen and sophomores, juniors and seniors gathered on Oct. 1 to play Powder Puff against each other as part of Clarke's Homecoming week.

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EXTRAS

Oct. 9, 2008

Rebranding Clarke, continued from page 1

The team, along with others from the campus, took the four attributes of Clarke: empowering relationships, focused academics, courageous students and preparation for life and defined how to promote that specific message with traditional undergraduates, alumni, nontraditional undergraduates and graduate students.

The results of this message matrix are the current Clarke College ads that are in the papers now. In the traditional undergrad ad campaigns Clarke currently has out, the attributes are defined as Knowledge by Clarke, Character by Clarke, Relationships by Clarke

and Success by Clarke.

The rebranding process is far from over though.

"We are just beginning this new brand," said Specht. "We have recruitment brochures, ads and first-look brochures focused towards traditional undergrads but we are going to continue to evolve. In the 'By Clarke' brand, stories are important. We are going to be reaching out to students, alums, faculty and staff to hear their stories about Clarke. We want their stories to define why Clarke is different."

CORRECTION

In the Sept. 18 issue of the Courier, Allison Padley's quote for "On The Streets" was left out. She was asked what her favorite and least favorite events in the Summer Olympics were. Her response should have read: "My favorite event was synchronized swimming because it's bizarre. My least favorite event was the steeplechase. That event should be reserved for horses."

Young Voters continued from page 2

Celebs, such as Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, have also gone public with their opinions in hopes of encouraging young people to vote.

MTV has done a lot to get youth involved, including adding campaign information to its web site, putting short ads about voting on the MTV channel and conducting polls nationwide. In a nationwide poll conducted in April 2008, youth voters' top concerns were economic problems (34 percent), environmental issues (18), educational systems (13), and terrorism (11).

With the recent dips in the DOW Jones and NASDAQ, the economy is seen as a large concern. A Rasmussen Reports poll conducted in September 2008 shows that currently in Iowa our age group sees Obama as the more trusted candidate over to deal with economic issues by a 47 to 43 percent margin.

According to the Pew Research Center, it has been a trend that there are a higher number of Democratic registrants in the 18-29 age group than there are Republican registrants. However, polls show that nearly two out of five young voters are registered as independent. The large number of independents makes our youth voters unpredictable as to which way the majority will vote in the November election.

More young voters have been involving themselves in the political process and our voice is becoming stronger. It is important to know the issues and the candidates' plans to address them before we cast our votes. Representing one-fourth of the eligible voters, our youth votes have more to say than most of us realize, and it is important that each of us does our part to ensure that our age group is heard.

Vegan food on campus continued from page 1

"We make every effort to accommodate the population in the minority," he said, adding that this new addition might also please those who aren't voicing their opinions.

"The small groups are also very important to us," Ricketts said.

For those who might not know exactly what a vegan is, unlike vegetarians, vegans don't eat anything that comes from an animal. This includes cheese and eggs. Ricketts wanted to make it clear that he's not eliminating meat dishes; he just incorporates vegan and vegetarian items into the line.

"We try to come up with items that both vegetarians and vegans would like," said Ricketts. He added that to do so, he just had to tweak current recipes that both types of

vegetarians could eat and enjoy.

The vegan items in the cafeteria are not merely alterations of current recipes; Ricketts makes these new items in addition to the others.

"We experiment with dishes all of the time," he said.

It's easy to distinguish the vegan foods from all the rest. Every week the cafeteria menu is printed online. You'll now find items highlighted in green, indicating that those are vegan foods.

So does vegan food taste any different? When Ricketts experimented with vegan ice cream, which is non-dairy, some students really couldn't tell the difference. Ricketts explained that Wendy's restaurants' use of the same product in their ice cream goes over pretty well

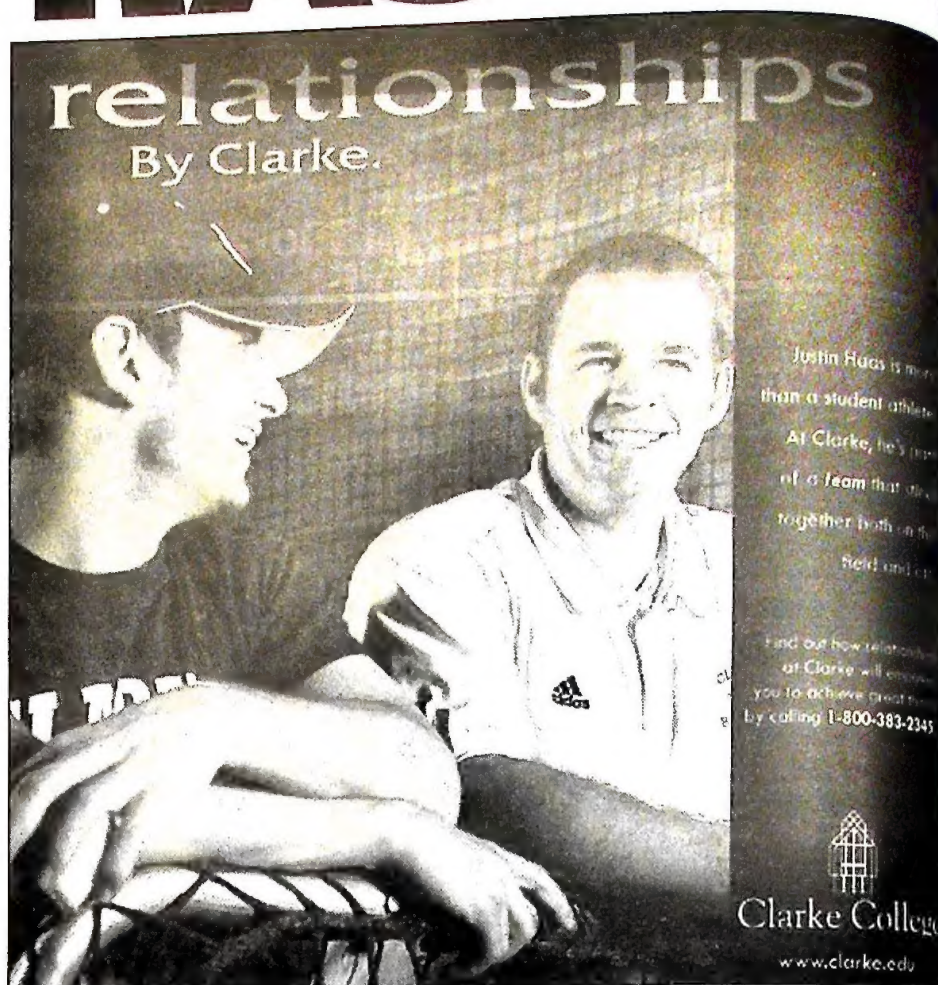
for them. It makes it lactose free for those who can't have dairy and vegan at the same time. The addition of soy milk on the beverage line is another example. It can be healthier and less fattening too.

Aside from the vegan requests, many students have been asking to see more mashed potatoes, taco days and chicken wings served in the cafeteria, whether for lunch or dinner.

"Every year we update the items on the menu," Ricketts said.

Dining service employees try to incorporate different food trends from all over the country and get away from heavy comfort foods. This helps everyone eat healthier.

"If there are things we can tweak to accommodate the few, we are more than happy to do it," he said.



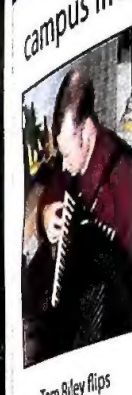
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Justin Huggs is more than a student athlete. At Clarke, he's part of a team that sticks together both on the field and off.

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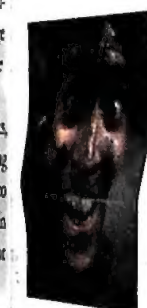
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campus life



Tom Riley flips accordions.

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Honor movie picks from our resident 'movie guy.'

sports



A new place to work out at Clarke.

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